AMENDMENT TO THE TITLE:

Please change the title of the application to APPARATUS FOR RECORDING INFORMATION IN AND/OR REPRODUCING INFORMATION FROM A FERROELECTRIC RECORDING MEDIUM.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject patent application are respectfully requested.

The title of the application has been changed to APPARATUS FOR RECORDING INFORMATION IN AND/OR REPRODUCING INFORMATION FROM A FERROELECTRIC RECORDING MEDIUM along the lines kindly suggested by the Examiner.

The drawings were objected to as allegedly failing to show the features of claim 10. While not acquiescing in this objection, claim 10 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and thus this objection is moot.

Claims 16-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. While not acquiescing in this rejection, claims 16-24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and thus this rejection is moot.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claim 4 contains allowable subject matter. Claim 25 corresponds to claim 4 written in self-standing independent form and thus claim 25 is believed to be allowable.

New claims 26-33 have also been added. The subject matter of these new claims is fully supported by the original disclosure and no new matter is added. These new claims distinguish over the applied documents for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 26 is directed to a dielectric recording medium in which "a pit for tracking is recorded in the control information area." By way of example without limitation, this feature is shown and described in the subject application, for example, in Figure 2 and at page 20, lines 10-11 and page 25, lines 17-19. Kasanuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,481,527) does not disclose a control information area and does not disclose a pit for tracking recorded in the control information area.

The office acknowledges that Kasanuki et al. does not disclose a control information area. See 9/9/2005 Office Action, page 7. However, the office action maintains that "the control area is old and widely used in the art, for example, control area can be located in lead-in area for storing the management information (TOC) for controlling the operation of the recording or reproducing." The office action concludes that "...one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

the invention was made would have been motivated to use a control area in KASANUKI et al's ferroelectric recording medium for storing control information as claimed."

It may be true that the technique of storing management information, such as TOC, in the lead-in area, is widely used in various conventional recording media, such as CDs and DVDs. However, the technique of recording a pit for tracking in the control information area is not used in conventional recording media. In claim 26, the information recorded in the control information area is not management information, but information (e.g., a pit) for tracking. No such arrangement is disclosed by Kasanuki et al.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the dielectric recording medium of claim 26 is not disclosed or suggested by Kasanuki et al.

Claims 27-29 depend from claim 26 and the subject matter of these claims is likewise not disclosed or suggested by Kasanuki et al.

Moreover, these dependent claims contain additional patentable features. For example, claim 28 specifies a particular arrangement of pits for tracking. By way of illustration without limitation, Figure 10A shows an example of such pits. See also by way of illustration without limitation page 25, line 26 to page 26, line 7 of the subject application. Kasanuki et al. does not show or suggest arrangement of pits specified in claim 28.

Claim 29 specifies that the pit for tracking is recorded in each of a plurality of zones. By way of illustration without limitation, Figure 9 shows this feature. See also by way illustration without limitation page 25, lines 11-21 of the subject patent application. Kasanuki et al. does not show or suggest this feature.

Independent claim 30 is directed to a dielectric recording apparatus including a tracking mechanism for carrying out tracking control according to an arrangement of pits like that specified in claim 28. Consequently, claim 30 and its dependent claim 31 are believed to patentably distinguish over Kasanuki et al.

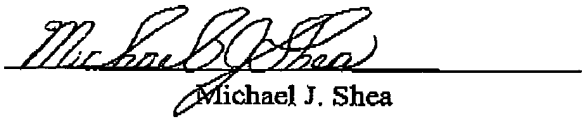
Independent claim 32 is directed to a dielectric reproducing apparatus including a tracking mechanism for carrying out tracking control according to an arrangement of pits like that specified in claim 28. Consequently, claim 32 and its dependent claim 33 are believed to patentably distinguish over Kasanuki et al.

ONOE et al.
Serial No.: 10/615,404
Response to Office Action of September 9, 2005

The pending claims are believed to be allowable and favorable office action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 

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